And His Various Descendants as Represented in the Philadelphia Zoo.

HOW SNAKES ARE FED.

Distinguishing Characteristics of Those That Are Venomous.

TAKING THE POISON FROM THEM.

Whisky Is Not an Antidote, but It Bridges Over the Danger.

A TENDENCY TO SWALLOW EACH OTHER

WRITTEN FOR THE DISPATCE.

RECENTLY have heard of the most marvelous snake in the world," said Superintendent yesterday.

Arthur Erwin Brown, of the Philadelphia Zoological Society, Superinten dent Brown is one of the leading naturalists of the United States. In addition to his duties

as the official head of the Philadelphia society, he is consulting zoologist of the New national Zo logical Gardon at Washington. His specialty in biology has been the study of snakes and reptiles, in which department he stands confessedly at the head in this country. He has studied the Ophidians not only in caprivity, but in their native haunts, pretty much all over the world, and two of the most conspicuous objects in his private office n the old John Penn mansion, in Philadelohia, are two large glass jars securely sealed and filled to the brim with all manner of specimens of the serpent tribe. Several months each year are spent by him usually in some of the wildest portions of the continent, and he has but recently returned from s two months' vacation trip along the Rio Grande in Northern Mexico and Southern

"I obtained my information about this wonderful snake from a Texan guide during my recent trip to the Mexican border, "be continued with a smile. "As you will uniterstand I do not wish to be held responnible for the statements of a man whom I met but easually, and about whose veracity and the quality of the whisky he drinks, I am in profound ignorance, although I have a private opinion upon the subject.

Greatest Snake Yarn on Record, The section of country extending from the Gulf to the Pacific, between the 29th and 30th degrees of north latitude, is the most prolific in snakes of any on the North American continent. It is almost sub-trop-ical, with long warm summers and short

Grande on his annual hunting expeditions

all he had to do was to stand on the edge of the chaparrel and yell 'Billy,' in a loud

tone of voice, when a Frio serpent, with

which he had become familiar during his trips, would shuffle out of the under-brush

quite equal that yarn of the Texan's.

Eattlers Over Seven Feet Long.

'Seriously speaking, however," continued the naturalist, "there are, I believe, some pretty good sized snakes down there. I gave orders for the capture of the largest that could be found and until they arrive I

would advocate a suspension of judgment

of rattlesnakes in North America, not less than 15 species have been found in the

atretch of country which I have described. All of the large rattlesnakes belong to the

genus Crotaius, which are easily distin-guished by the small granular scales which

cover the head differing from the large plates which, instead of scales, cover the

reads of the smaller ones. The largest rat-

desnakes that we have are known as the

diamond rattlesnakes, and on the cotton

Georgia they attain their greatest size, fre-

quently reaching a length of 734 feet."
"How do you distinguish between venom-

ous and non-venomous snakes, without per

seking some living object?" was asked

mitting them to demonstrate the fact by at-

variably with one exception," replied Mr.
Brown. "Every venomous snake has a
small pit or hole in its face a little below

and midway between the eye and nostril.

The non-venomous snakes have no such dis-

tinguishing characteristic. The one excep-

snake, so-called because of the vivid yellow,

red and black stripes which encircle its body, and it is not, I think, of a very highly

sonous character. South American

frican and East Indian snakes are not dis

tinguished in the presence or absence of poison langs by the pit I have described."

A Sen Serpent Most Deadly.

While repeated experiments have been

ande, very little is known about the active

made, very little is known about the active principle of snake venom. We know that it is a very subtle poison, but it has thus far defied ultimate analysis. Dr. Weir Mitchell, of Philadelphia; Dr. Yarrow, U.

"There is a rule which can be followed in-

slands off the coast of North Carolink and

"Of the 18 fairly well recognized species

come up to him to have it's head

I do not believe," concluded Superintendent Brown, his smile ending in a laugh, "that in all the range of Herpetology, an-

REPTILE HOUSE AT PHILADELPHIA, FINEST IN THE WORLD.

inal trouble

known as hydrophidae, and vary from 8 to 12 feet in length. The cobra di bapello of India is an exceedingly venomous snake, but I do not think that its common snake, but I do not think that its comm omous snake, but I do not think that its bite is more deadly than that of our rattle-snake or copperhead. One reason why there are so many deaths in India from the bite of the cobra is because the natives are not only reckless, going about with bare feet and legs in the haunts of the reptile, but when once attacked very little, if any treatment is given to counteract the effects of the poison. The whole question, however, is a relative one, and depends upon the condition of the snake when it made the attack, where the victim was struck, and the subsequent treatment. If the poison fangs penetrate through a boot-leg or a portion of the clothing, some of the venom will be removed. If the fangs strike a portion of the body near which the circulation is active the re-sult is usually a fatal termination. The bite of a large rattlesnake or copperhead is much more to be dreaded than that of a small one, for the larger the snake, the larger

the secretion of poison.

When a Snake Is Shedding. "It is an old notion," continued Superin

Gila monster?"

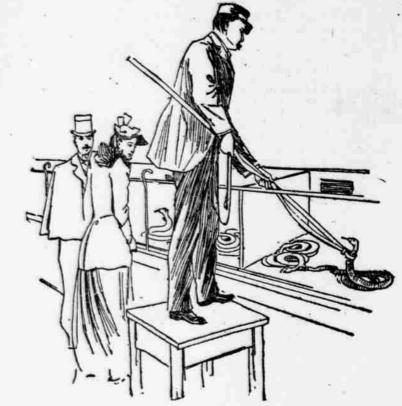
"Personally, I have not. Some time ago
we extracted some of its venom for the use
of Dr. Weir Mitchell, of this city. There is no question that it is a venomous reptile, though not highly so. The experiments of Dr. Mitchell show that birds and mammals treated with a hypodermic injection of the secretion suffer from it toxic effects. There is little to be feared about the reptile, for it

is sluggish and not disposed to bite."

A Pointer for Schenley Park Managers. A visit was paid to the reptile house, which, by the way, is the finest building of its kind in the world. The glass cages permit a full view of every movement of their sinuous and slimy inhabitants. The alli-gator tank is in the center of the building, while in all the interstices tropical plants spread their broad leaves.

spread their broad leaves.

"There," said Superintendent Brown,
pointing through a heavy plate glass above
which was a card marked, "Do not touch,
Poisonous," and behind which a small,



KEEPER THOMPSON LASSOING A RATTLER IN THE PWILADELPHIA ZOO.

tendent Brown, "that the bite of a snake is | rather dusty looking serpent lay coiled up much more deadly when it is shedding its skin than at any other time. It was supposed that there was some mysterious con-nection between this process and the virulence of the poison. The secret is this: When a snake is shedding it is blind for two or three days, owing to the skin of the head coming forward over the eyes. During this time it cannot strike its prey as it usually does, and, as a result, there is greater secretion of venom in the poison glands at the base of its fangs and the victim of the attack receives a larger dose than he probably would any other time."

victim over the dangerous period. The general effect of snake poison is that of a powerful depressor of the nervous system, with reflex action on the heart and respirawinters. The guide had an inerhaustible tory organs. Alcoholic liquor has a contrary of stories about the Frio serpents. One of his tales was to the effect that when he visited a certain point along the Rio brings it back. Too much whisky, as a

large number of persons well know, the

morning after, has a depressing effect, and if an overdose be administered the result

will be to aggravate and intensify the orig-

inal trouble. The great danger in the use of whisky in snake bites lies in carrying its

effects beyond the stimulating and exciting stage. Quite a number of remedies have been suggested in such emergencies, among them being the hypodermic injection of

ammonia, permanganate of potash, and ja-borandi. Personally, I know nothing of

the efficacy of these drugs. While I have frequently been bitten by non-venomous reptiles, I have never felt the fangs of a

A Wedding Spoils a Discovery.

covered for the toxicological effect of rep-tile venom. Dr. Stradling did a great deal

of experimenting with snake poison, and claimed to have discovered an antidote.

To demonstrate the efficacy of his discover he allowed himself to be bitten on several occasions, after he had prepared himself, with no serious results. I presume he would have carried his investigations to

successful issue, or ended in killing himself.
had he not got married. His wife refused

to let him continue his experiments, and so he abandoned his researches. "That there is an antidote for the bite of

the most venomous snake, there is no doubt.

It is possessed by some of the aboriginal people of South America, Africa and portions of the United States. The Zuni Indians, of Arizona, hold an annual snake

dane at which they not only handle the most poisonous snakes, but hold them in their teeth during a frenzy of excitement. They prepare for this horrible festival by taking an antidote, or rubbing themselves with some vegetable compound. I do not think that there has been a single death

among the Zunis recorded from a snake bite during one of these dances. Surgeons

in the United States army have endeavored to obtain their secret, but without avail."

enake for examination or experiments'

Robbing a Snake of Its Poison,

"Keeper Johnson in the reptile house is quite an expert at that kind of work," answered Mr. Brown. "He has a pole about six feet long, with a broad strap passing over one end and through a staple on the

other side, and running the full length of the stick. The strap forms a loop which is passed over the head, of the snake, and drawn tight. The snake is held firmly by

this apparatus until the keeper can reach shown and catch him behind the head with his lett thumb and forefinger. A slight

pressure forces the mouth open, and then a small porcelain cup is pressed against the root of the reptile's mouth contracting the glands and forcing the venom to run down the grooved fangs. When a rattler's mouth is closed its poison fangs lie close up against the upper is whome By a wonderfully

the upper jaw bone. By a wonderfully delicate bit of nature's mechanism when

the mouth is opened the fangs are forced down into an erect position, the action at

asked Superintendent Brown's visitor.

"How do you extract the venom of

"Thus far there has been no antidote dis

"Here is a snake with an undeservedly had reputation," remarked the naturalist, pointing to a serpent whose visiting card in Latin stuck outside its abode, read, "Heterodon Platythinus, or Hog Nosed Snake." "We find these snakes pretty much all over the country. They are vulgarly known as the Blowing Viper, and are popularly be-lieved to be venomous. They are perfectly harmless, but their habit of flattening the head and hissing viciously has given them a very bad name in Jersey, and other parts of

thing as a bright red and bright green rat-tlesnake. There are such curiosities in the snake world, but not more than two or three have ever been captured. We have no cobra, which is owing to the fact that they

slightest movement. They swallow it head first, and if there is the slightest muscular movement observable, they will disgorge at once. It is different with the moccasin. It will strike and hold onto its pray until it is

One of the rare creatures in the reptile house is a Cuban iguana. If it were built on a mammoth scale it would pass muster as a dragon. It has a long, flexible tail, with which it occasionally wipes up the floor in a fit of rage, while the horny spines extending along its back from end to end, resemble the teeth of an elongated buzz-saw. This odd creature is one of Keeper Thompson's favorites. He occasionally shares his mid-day lunch with the ugly little brute. To demonstrate its abnormal appetite for the luxuries of civilization the keeper cut a slice of mince pie, and fed it to the iguana from his and Clay were taken lunch with the ugly little brute. To demonstrate its shormal appetite for the luxuries of civilization the keeper cut a slice of mince pie, and fed it to the iguana from his hand.

When Davis had little Winnie Davis with Land.

Characteristics we got another boat which to carried us North. The families of Davis and Clay were taken North with us, and Mrs. Davis had little Winnie Davis with Land.

Snakes in captivity are subject to a variety of diseases, the most common of which is known as canker mouth. When attacked with this ailment the reptile refuses food, falls into a torpor and gradually wastes away. Treatment of any kind avails but little. The remedies usually applied are pulverized camphor and laudanum, and vasaline rubbed on the lips and mouth, surface through a tube.

GEORGE N. MCCAIN.

THOMAS O'ROURKE, of Braddock, is an ef-St. Luke's, of Mansfield, boasts of a colored

THE Committee on Public Meetings promises a monster meeting in March.

THE Turtle Creek society effected a perma-nent organization Thursday night.

Worst Side of the Rebellion.

Many Congressmen Who Knew the

CRISP AND COBB UNDER THE GUNS

Tarsney, of Missouri, Escaped by Imperson-ating a Dead Man.

STORY OF ALEXANDER STEPHENS

CORRESPONDENCE OF THE DISPLACE !

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.—Congressmen prison! Yes, and the best members of Congress, too. A baker's dozen of them have spent weary months in prisons, watched by guards ready to shoot them at their slightest attempt to

The Hon. Charles Frederick Crisp was a beardless boy of 16 when he entered the Confederate Army,

but they made him a lieutenant. He had served three years when he was wounded and captured and carried to Fort Delaware, and for three months he lay there with thousands of other Confederate prisoners, having no comforts, but no great privations. Then an order was issued that in retal-iation for the acts of the Confederates 600 officers among the prisoners of this fort should be sent South and placed under the fire of the Confederate guns at Morris Island, near Charleston. This stockade was midway between the Confederate batteries, Gregg and Wagner, and in front of the Federal batteries, and so located that the Confederate guns threw great shells shricking over the prison pen and now and then trag-ments fell into the stockade, to the horror of the prisoners. Strange to say, however, no one was hurt.

Crisp.

The Rations at Morris Island. Representative Cobb, of Alabama, was in this prison at the same time with Speaker

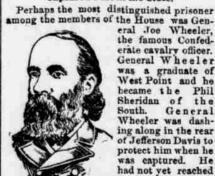
Crisp. Their guards on Morris Island were negroes, "and these," says Mr. Cobb, "were the blackest negroes you ever say. They were exposed as much to the fire as we were, and one of them had his leg knocked off by a shell. The camp was laid off in streets, and we had little A-tents and there were four men in a tent. A negro sergeant had charge of each row of tents, and

it was his duty to call the roll three times day and to issue rations. Around the tents and inside the stockade there was a rope tied to posts which we knew was the deadline, and the man who passed this rope, or even touched it, knew he would be shot."

"What were your rations?"
"They were not very fattening," was the reply. "In the morning we got from three to five pieces of hard tack and a piece of to five pieces of hard tack and a piece of meat about an inch wide and two inches long. At noon each of us got about half a pint of pea soup, which was brought around in a barrel and ladled out, and for supper we had a little mush or rice, which was also served from a barrel. At first the feeding was not so bad, but later on when the principle of retaliation was carried out, they cut us down to a pint of meal and a half pint of pickle per day. This was terrible, and it was done in retaliation, so they claim, for the treatment of the prisoners at Red and Green Mattiers.

"While the Philadelphia Zoological Garden has one of the finest collections of reptiles in the world," said Mr. Brown, "there are some rare specimens that I would like very much to obtain. For instance, it is not generally known that there is such a high read with the read wit with the read with the read with the read with the read with th

Captured Just at the Close



the famous Confed erate cavalry officer. General Wheeler was a graduate of West Point and he Sheridan of the South. General Davis when he re-

Wheeler. disband his troops. He had done this and name until I got had only a few of his soldiers about him through my ex-

when he was captured. Said he:
"I was lying in the woods in company
with several of my soldiers and a couple of
negroes when a party of Union soldiers
came up. These soldiers were in Confederate clothes, and they tound us by the side of a negro who had brought us something to eat. They were headed by a Lieutenant Reynolds, and as soon as I saw him come up and talk to my negroes I knew it was all up with me, and that they had found out who I was. I had torn the stars which denoted my rank off my coat, but the coat was faded and the spots shone out so that they could tell that I was an officer. Upon being accosted and asked who I was, I told them that I was General Wheeler, and that under the cartel then in force I surrendered and asked that we be paroled.

Brought North With Davis. "Lieutenant Reynolds told me he would not accept my parole at that time, and said, 'You wanted to be

with Davis and we will take you to him.' With that he took me to At-lanta, and I was

ment C. Clay and

her. She was then a baby and I had her on my knee during a great part of the voy-age and helped to take care of her as the nurse had been taken away from Mrs. Davis." "I roomed with Alexander Stephens or

"I roomed with Alexander Stephens on the steambost," continued General Wheeler, "and I found him very gloomy over the prospects. As for me, I felt happy and I thought is was a grand thing that I had not been taken prisoner before and felt relieved that the war was over. Mr. Stephens told me that for himself he expected a long if not a perpetual imprisonment. I told him there was no danger of his being ill-treated, that he had numerous friends among the North and that they would not harm him, whatever they did with the rest of us, on account of the speech he had made for the Union before the war, I then asked: "Well, Mr. Stephens, if this is to be your fate, what will be the fate of President Davis?" A look of horror came over his face and he raised his hands. 'Don't speak of it,' he said. 'His fate is too terrible to think of.'"

How Tarsney Drew Big Rations.

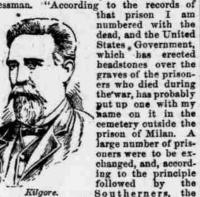
How Tarsney Drew Big Ration

Belle Island, Andersonville and Milan we had mighty poor fare. Throughout my prison life I managed to get enough to keep me alive, and during the latter part of it I succeeded in getting a number of extra rations. While I was in Andersonville, every now and then we would have new batches of men come into the prison. I got in the habit of getting near the gate when these new companies came in, and as they marched up I would fall into line and give a fictitious name, and thus become registered

marched up I would fall into line and give a fictitious name, and thus become registered with them. Then, when that hundred was up for roll call and for distribution of rations, I would appear and answer to this name and get my ration. In another hundred I answered as John Tarsney and got a ration there, and I continued this until at last I was drawing five different rations, which, in addition to my own, was six, and I not only kept myself but a poor fellow soldier who was too sick to play the same game. I was one of the first men in Andergame. I was one of the first men in Ander-sonville and Milan, and I saw that these companies in which I registered were far mough spart so that I could skip from one to the other and answer my name in all. I began to fatten up, and was doing splendidly when a number of the other prisoners got to playing the same game and the authorities discovered us."

Impersonated a Dead Man. "What was the story of your escape, Mr.

Tarsney?" I asked. "It was a curious one," replied the Congressman. "According to the records of that prison I am numbered with the



changed, and, accord-ing to the principle followed by the Kilgore. Southerners, the poorest, the diseased, the lame, the halt and the blind were picked out for exchange. I was too fat to get among that number, and I had no idea that I would be taken. The

night before the exchange was to be made, in walking down the hill, which was on one in walking down the hill, which was on one side of the prison, I heard a voice. It was about dusk. I looked, and on the ground was an emaciated soldier who had attempted to drag himself across the stockade, but had fallen and was helpless. I lifted him up, gave him something to drink and made him as comfortable as I could. I talked with him, and he told me the company that he belonged to and all about himself. He told me he was to be exchanged on the morrow, but with his consumptive cough I could see but with his consumptive cough I could see that he would never get to the North.

A Novel Path to Liberty. "He gave me the number of the company "He gave me the number of the company he was in in the prison and the name of his sergeant, and after doing what I could for him I left him. Early the next morning in crossing the camp I saw what remained of him. He had died during the night and he was a little more than a skeleton. As I walked away from him the thought came to me that I might get out of prison in his place and I at once went to once it wy friends. me that I might get out of prison in his place and I at once went to one of my friends and told him my scheme. I wrote out my own name, my regiment and my company on a piece of paper and pinned it on his cont, then my friend, Johnny Campion, and myself lifted him up and carried him and placed him among the dead bodies at the side of the gate of the prison. This was the custom and the hodies were regularly carcustom and the bodies were regularly car-ried out and buried and the names upon them were recorded among the dead of the

"I then went to the sergeant of my own rison company, and arranged to bave him report me dead. He agreed to do so, and I went to the sergeant of the company to which the dead man belonged and tried to get him to let me pass out in this man's place. He at first refused, and wanted to put in one of his own friends, but I told him that the column are made and the latest the server was the serge and the server was the serger was the serge that the scheme was mine, and that I would expose auyone else who tried to be exchanged under it. I gave him an old silver watch which I had with me, and I was soon ready for the exchange, I made myself look if anything more ragged than ever; I drew in my shoulders, affected an extravagant limp and succeeded in passing the officers.

Almost a Failure After All. "But I had to pass a second examination

had gotten past the officers, and was in the gate just ready to go out, when the inspec-tor called 'Halt!' I halted, for a move knew would result in became the Phil my death. The sergeant, however, who had my watch in his Wheeler was dashing along in the rear to the man, telling him it was all right, and I was permitted to go on. My name was now John Frantz lastrand of John Torra instead of John Tarsceived an order to ney, and I kept that

change and was at the North. The man I represented was John Frantz, of Company K, of the Fifty-fourth Pennsylvania Regi-

Some days later they heard the baying of the hounds who were on their track. They were at this time near a river and they jumped into this and swam to an island which was covered with bushes. They which was covered with busies. They crawled panting in among these and lay there while the hounds beat up and down the banks but failed to locate their trail. After their pursuers had gone away they crawled out and made their way North following the North Star and at last getting into the Indian Territors. into the Indian Territory

"The next day," said Mr. Dungan, "we pushed our way on northward and we were almost famished, when we saw an Indian hut. I picked up a copy of Virgil, which was lying on a table, and looking in the front of it I found the name of a man with the words 'Marietta, O.,' under it. It seems we were in the hut of a civilized Indian who had gone to school at Marietta. He got us up a good dinner and took us to a trail leading over the mountains into Arkan. pushed our way on northward and we were trail leading over the mountains into Arkan sas. Here we were captured by bush-whackers and handed over to the jail at Washington, Ark. I had a knife which I carried in my boot leg. We made a file of this and filed one of the bars of the jail window so that we could slip it down and crawl out. Now the thing of it was to get a rope and we bought one for \$5 pretending that we wanted it for a game. The last man who got out scraped the wall with his foot and the guard heard him. The result was that we were captured after a lively

Cut a Hole in His Car.

Representative Grady, of North Carolina, was captured at Arkansas Post by General Sherman. He attempted to escape by cutting a hole through the box of the car, but this was discovered and frustrated. Representative Kilgore, of Texas, was carried to Camp Morton at Indianapolis, and thence taken to Camp Chase and to Fort Delaware.
At Fort Delaware he planned to jump into
the water and swim to Delaware City. One
or two men did get away in this way, but General Kilgore was not among them, and he remained in the fort until he was exchanged.

Representative Andrew Stewart, Pennsylvania, entered the army as a pri-yate and came out of it an assistant ad-Pennsylvania, entered the army as a private and came out of it an assistant adjutant-general. He was confined in Libby, Macon, Charleston, Columbia and other Southern prisons for over a year, and can sing the whole gamut of prison woes. John R. Fellows, of New York, describes the life at Johnson's Island as not at all bad. They had lectures and schools and different kinds of games. Colonel Fellows at one time was a nart of an ameteur troupe there that gave a part of an amateur troupe there that gave the old-time farce of "Box and Cox."

A LAND OF PROMISE.

Wonderful Resources of the Little Republic of Uruguay, S. A.

CHEAP AND HEALTHFUL LIVING.

Treasures of Gold and Silver That Have Been Lost for Centuries.

AN UGLY WAY OF GETTING ASHORE

CORRESPONDENCE OF THE DISPATCH, MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY, Jan. 11 .-After our manifold and varied experiences in South American ports, we flattered ourselves that nothing more remained to be learned in the line of disagreeable methods of transit from ship to shore. Those Southern ports where vessels come up to a civilized pier and discharge their passengers over a gang-plank are rare as angel's visits. As a rule, anchor is cast three or four miles from land, the ladder-like stairs are let down outside from the upper deck and shore-going people descend to row boats that come danoing over the billows for that purpose. Even that experience is bad enough in the usual rough seas, for one must spring off the stairs at the precise instant when the tiny boat is tossed near on the crest of a wave; and having successfully performed that feat, be rowed through the surf, often wetted to the skin, or occasionally swamped, to be fished out again, a "damp, moist unpleasant body."

At Yucatan we were carried to land on the backs of men; at Guatemala on mules; at Costa Rica in wagons; at Mollendo (Peru) in a barrel, and a hundred times on rocky coasts, where the billows were too boisterous for other means, we have been hoisted up and swung out by cranes like cattle, seated on a platform or in a rough box or tub-spun round and round in midair as the clumsy apparatus slowly performed its work; and finally dumped, with a dull thud, upon some waiting seow or raft or tender.

The Worst Landing in the World,

But we looked for no such trouble at Montevideo, the rich and spiendid capital of prosperous Uruguay, which has so often been described as the finest city in South America. Judge, then, of the utter demoralization of unprepared feminine nerves when we found here the very worst method of landing we had yet encountered. Every-body made an unusually careful toilet on the morning that we were due in Monte-video, expecting to skip dryshod over a gang-plank into the city, and emerged smiling from his stateroom in answer to the welcome summon, "All ashore." But to our astonishment there was neither dock nor pier in sight, the stuceoed palaces of the city gleamed dim in the distance, and even the stair-like ladder remained in statu quo, lashed up under the life-boats. What did it mean?

did it mean?

"Are you ready, ladies?" said the ever gallant Captain, and thereupon we were escorted to the end of the ship. Away down below, a screaming, tossing, rocking little tug advanced and receded, the plaything of the billows; and straight down the steamer's side dangled a ladder of tarred ropes—made fast at the top, but swinging loose and endfast at the top, but swinging loose and end-ing off at nowhere far above the water— upon which we had often watched the sail-ors ascending and descending, like carica-tures of Jacob's angels, and marveled at their temerity.

It Was a Stunning Blow. For a moment nobody perceived the con-nection between the steamer, the ladder and the tug—and then it dawned upon us like a blow on the head. We were actually expected to clamber over the deck railing climb band under hand down those sway ing ropes to their stopping place and cling there above the briny deep till that bobbing tug bobbed near enough—then drop and trust to Providence. You cling at the bottom let go, expecting to fall into fathoms water, or into the interior of a shark as Jonah was gobbled—and presently find Jonah was gobbled—and presently find yourself an undignified heap on the alippery deck of the little tug. Then gather up your mangled remains, and hasten to hide your blushes (and probably your tears, if not more strong-minded than the average woman) in a tiny box of a cabin, striving

to repair damages and regain something like composure while your comrades in distress are undergoing the same ordeal.

Of course, aged people, children and invalids cannot be trusted to make this Al Serat descent for themselves, and all such passengers are just picked up and dropped overboard, into somebody's arms out-stretched below. To be sure, "There's many a slip 'twirt the cup and lip," and it many a slip twitt the cup and lip," and it sometimes happens—when a miscalculation is made or the tug bobs away too soon—that an unfortunate voyager gets a ducking; but there are always plenty of sailors at hand to fish him out, and we were cheerfully assured that few have been drowned. Sharks? Well, yes, it was reluctantly admitted that there are sharks in these waters, and they have been known to snap off unwary arms and legs, therefore one cannot be too careful about keeping out of their way.

A Prosperous Little Republic.

A Prosperous Little Republic.

A Prosperous Little Republic.

Though least in area, let nobody imagine that Uruguay is of lesser importance than other Southern Republics. On the contrary, though it has an area of only 73,185 square miles (being a trifle larger than England), with a total population of only 30,000, it is one of the richest and most prosperous. There is not an acre of unproductive soil in its whole extent and hardly a pauper; and it is the only country—at least on this side of the world—where American gold is at a discount. Whereas in Mexico, Peru, Chile, Argentine, Brazil and all the rest of them, one receives a good round premium on Uncle Samuel's golden coins.

At present Uruguay's principal source of wealth is in cattle and sheep. So genial is the climate and productive the soil that any grain or fruit of the temperate, torrid or frigid zones can be grown in abundance—from sugar and coffee to wheat and corn, bananas and potatoes, pineappies and pippins. There is plenty of the best pasturage in the world, plenty of water, plenty of stone and timber for building material, and geologists say that the entire upper corner of the cone-shaped Republic is underlaid by exhaustless coalbeds. So many are the navigable rivers that one can go by water to almost any section of the country and natural harbors are frequent along the coast.

The Story of Uruguay Gold.

The Story of Urugusy Gold. The old placer washings, from which the Jesuits and the Viceroys of Spain used to Jesuits and the Viceroys of Spain used to get such fabulous quantities of gold and silver, were all long since exhausted or their localities have been obliterated and forgotten. During 100 years of almost continuous warfare, including the long struggle for independence and subsequent revolutions, the people were mercilessly robbed of their wealth, and many poor wretches who were suspected of knowing where gold or silver might be obtained were persecuted until they revealed the secret or died to conceal it; and such pains were taken to nide all trace of nature's store houses that in many cases, after the lapse of a lew years, the descendants of the original owners could not find them.

cases, after the lapse of a few years, the descendants of the original owners could not find them.

Within the last quarter century, however, new mineral deposits of extraordinary richness have been discovered, and the report of a recent Geological Commission, appointed by the Government to examine these resources, reads like a tale of the "Arabian Nights."

Within the last decade the population of Uruguay has doubled, as much from natural causes as from immigration, the birth rate averaging 45 per thousand and the death rate 7. It is enthusiastically claimed by resident foreigners that this is not only the healthiest piace on the face of the globe, but that good living is cheaper here than anywhere else. The best of beef, mutton and pork can be bought for 4 cents per pound; hish from 3 to 5 cents; ducks, chickees and partridges, from 10 to 15 cents per bird, and vegetables of all kinds are correspondingly cheap. It is not generally known, but is nevertheless true, that the extract of beef, in such universal use in hospitals and elsewhere as a tonic, is all made in Uruguay, though put up in lars which bear an English trade mark. Dr. Leibig, the celebrated Antwerp chemist, invented the extract about 50 years ago; but in 1895 an English company purchased the process and removed the establishment from Antwerp to this comparatively unknown republic.

Famelia B. Waed. tively unknown republ

WRITTEN FOR THE DISPATCH

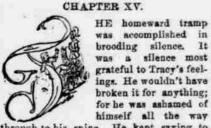
BY MARK TWAIN,

Author of "Innocents Abroad," "Tom Sawyer," "Huckleberry Finn," Etc., Etc.

* SYNOPSIS OF PREVIOUS CHAPTERS.

The story opens with a scene between Lord Berkeley, Earl of Rossmore, and his son Viscount Berkeley, in Chaimondeley Castle, England. The young man has studied the claims to the estate made by Simon Leathers, of America, and become convinced that he is the rightful helf and his father and himself usurpers. He announces his intention to change places with Leathers, whereupon the old lord pronounces him stark mad. A letter arrives from Colonel Mulberry Sellers, of Washington, announcing that, by the death of Simon Leathers and his brother at a log-rolling in Cherokee Strip, he has become the Earl of Rossmore and rightful heir to Chaimondeley Castle and the vast estate. Colonel Sellers and his contented old wife live in an ancient frame house before which hangs a sign announcing that he is an attorney at law, claim agent, hypnotist, mind-care specialist, etc., etc. His old friend, Washington Hawkins, arrives. He has been elected delegate to Congress from Cheroke Strip. The Colonel has invented a puzzie which he calls Pirs-in-Clover. Persuaded by Hawkins he applies for a patent and accidentally runs across a Yankee who agrees to give him 5 cents royalty on each one sold. Then the news comes that Simon Leathers is dead and the Colonel lays his plans. First he establishes the usages of nobility in his home, which he calls Rossmore Towers. Sally Sellers, now Lady Gwendolen, is notified at her college, and proceeds to lord it over those shoddy aristoaris who hitherto have considered her a piebeian. The Colonel and the Major lay a plan to capture One-Armed Pete, for whom there is a big reward. They locate him at the Gadsby Hotel. Young Lovid Berkeley has arrived meanwhile and stops at the Gadsby. Just as the Colonel's plans are about to be consummated the notel burns, Lord Berkeley ascapes, finding One-Armed Pete is supposed to have been burned alive. The newspapers also report Lord Berkeley burned. This just suits the young man's plans. The Colonel and the Major go to the hotel and, being convinced that none of the bod

CHAPTER XV.



grateful to Tracy's feelings. He wouldn't have broken it for anything; for he was ashamed of himself all the way through to his spine. He kept saying to "How upanswerable it all is-how abso-

lutely unanswerable. It is basely, degradingly selfish to keep those uncarned honors, and—and—oh, hang it, nobody but a cur—" "What an idiotic speech that Tompkins This outburst was from Barrow. It flooded

Tracy's demoralized soul with waters of refreshment. These were the darlingest words the poor vacillating young apostate had ever heard—for they whitewashed his shame for him, and that is a good service to have when you can't get the best of all verdicts-selfacquittal. "Come up to my room and smoke a pipe,

Tracy."

Tracy had been expecting this invitation, and had had his declination all ready; but he was glad enough to accept now. Was it possible that a reasonable argument could positions-s process effective with most people. "What is it you object to in Tomp-kin's speech, Barrow?"

"Oh, the leaving out of the factor of human nature, requiring another man to do what you wouldn't do yourself."
"Do you mean—"

the words out, his scorn so choked him. And he couldn't get any further than that form of words; it seemed to dam his flow utterly. He got up and came and glared upon Tracy in a kind of outraged and unappeasable way, and said again, "Except you." He walked around him, inspecting him from one point of view and there are him from one point of view, and then another, and relieving his soul now and then by exploding that formula at him, "Except you." Finally he slumped down into his chair with the air of one who gives it up

and said:

"He's straining his viscera, and he's breaking his heart trying to get some low-down job that a good dog wouldn't have, and yet wants to let on that if he had a chance to scoop an earldom he wouldn't do it. Tracy, don't put this kind of a strain on me. Lately, I'm not as strong as I

"Well, I wasn't meaning to put a strain on you, Barrow; I was only meaning to in-timate that it an earldom ever does fall in

"There—I wouldn't give myself any worry about that, if I was you. And besides, I can settle what you would do. Are you any different from me?"
"Well—no."
"Are you any better than me?"

"Are you any better than me?" "O-er-why, certainly not."
"Are you as good? Come."
"Indeed, I—the fact is, you take me so suddenly."

"Suddenly? What is there sudden about it? It isn't a difficult question, is it? Or doubtful? Just measure us on the only fair speech? He was burning to hear Barrow try it. He knew how to start him and keep him going. It was to start him and keep men, and care, and bardship, and failure, and success, and downs and ups and ups and downs, is just a trifle the superior of a young fellow like you, who doesn't know how to do anything that's valuable, can't way, hasn't had any experience of life and its seriousness, hasn't any culture but the



FOOL OR NO FOOL, HE WOULD GRAB.

simple. Tompkins is a blacksmith; has a family, works for wages, and hard, toofooling around won't furnish the bread. Suppose it should turn out that by the death of somebody in England he is sud-denly an earl—income \$500,000 a year. What would he do?" "Well, I-I suppose he would have to de-

cline to-"Man, he would grab it in a second." "Do you really think he would?"
"Think?" I don't think anything about
it; I know it."

"Why?" Because he's not a fool."
"So you think that if he were a fool, he—"
"No, I don't. Fool or no fool, he would grab it. Anybody would. Anybody that's alive. And I've seen dead people that would get up and go for it. I would my-

This was a balm, this was healing, this was rest and peace and comfort.
"But I thought you were opposed to nobilities. "Transmissible ones, yes. But that's nothing. I'm opposed to millionaires, but it would be dangerous to offer me the posi-

"You'd take it?"

"I would leave the funeral of my dearest

"I would leave the funeral of my dearest enemy to go and assume its burdens and responsibilities."

Tracy thought awhile then said:
"I don't know that I quite get the bearings of your position. You say you are opdosed to hereditary nobilities, and yet if you had the chance you would..."
"The case" I a minute I would.

"Take one? In a minute I would. And there isn't a mechanic in that entire club that wouldn't. There isn't a lawyer, doctor, editor, author, thinker, loafer, railroad president, saint—land—there isn't a human eing in the United States that wouldn't

ump at the chance."
"Except me," said Tracy, softly.
"Except you." Barrow could hardly get

"Why, here's what I mean; it's very | artificial culture of books, which adorns but really doesn't educate—come. If I wouldn't scorn an earldom, what the devil right have you to do it?"

Tracy dissembled his joy, though he

wanted to thank the chairmaker for that last remark. Presently a thought struck him, and he spoke up briskly and said: "But, look here, I really can't quite get the hang of your notions—your principles—
if they are principles. You are incon if they are principles. You are incon-sistent. You are opposed to aristocracies, yet you'd take an earldom if you could. Am I to understand that you don't blame an earl for being and remaining an earl?"

"I certainly don't."
"And you wouldn't blame Tompkins, or yourself, or me, or anybody, for accepting n earldom if it was offered? "Indeed I wouldn't."

"Well, then, who would you blame?"
"The whole nation—any bulk and mass of population anywhere, in any country, that will put up with the infamy, the outrage, the insult of a hereditary aristocracy which they can't enter and on absolutely free and

equal terms."
"Come, aren't you beclouding yourself "Indeed, I am not. I am entirely clear-headed about this thing. If I could extir-pate an aristocratic system by declining its honors then I should be a rascal to accept them. And if enough of the mass would them. And if enough of the mass would join me to moke the extirpation possible, then I should be a rascal to do otherwise

then I should be a rescal to be than help in the attempt."

"I believe I understand—yes, I think I get the idea. You have no blame for the lucky few who naturally decline to vacate the pleasant nest, they were born into, you have the all-powerful and stupid only despise the all-powerful and stupid mass of the nation for allowing the nest to

"That's it, that's it. You can get a sim That's it, toat's it. I do can get a simple thing through your head if you work at it long enough.
"Thanks."
"Don't mention it. And I'll give you

neca, which is considered to be, I believe, the most deadly in existence. They are

A.; Sir Joseph Fayrer, of the British Museum, and Dr. Stradling are the leading investigators of this subject. I recently sen; some samples of venom extracted from the nunkes in our garden to Dr. Shurly, of What is considered the most venomous snake known to zoologists?"
"It is difficult to say. There is a species of sea serpents, found in the Straits of Mal-



"Whisky is an antidote for snake poison "No, sir. It is a popular fancy, but not a fact," said Mr. Brown. "Whisky is what might be called a bridge used to carry the

have to be carried such a distance and are very difficult to keep alive in captivity."

try. Very few of the profession—there is no such thing as suake charming—handle venomous suakes, and where they do they are careful to have the fangs removed. A child could do a great many of the tricks of public snake charmers. There are only two requisites, strength and courage."
"Seriously speaking, Mr. Brown, do you believe that there is such a thing as a sea-serpent?" was asked, as the superintendent stopped for a moment before a tank half filled with water. The naturalist paused

filled with water. The naturalist paused for a moment before replying and then said; "The position held by the great majority of zoologists and paleoutologists upon this question is similar to that of an agnostic in religion. We know that in past geologic ages gigantic saurians existed; that the elephant, rhinocerous, tapir and other great beasts are groups left over from other epochs. We do not know, we cannot know one-third of the sea's wonders of animal life. It may be that as the mammoths of pre-glacial periods have their representa-

"A peculiarity about venomous snakes," continued the keeper, "is their manner of taking food; a rattlesnake or a copperhead will strike their pray, then coil up and wait for it to die. Before commencing to swallow it, they will watch intently for the

A RALLY is needed at Homestead.

THE scheme to agitate total abstine among the parochial school children is taking definite shape. A form of plades

in a picturesque heap, "there is what is be-lieved to be the deadly Fer de Lauce, from Martinique. I am not certain of its species, however, for nearly every suake that comes from Martinique or San Lucia is called a Fer de Lance. I am under the impression Fer de Lance. I am under the impression that the genuine snake of the name is much larger than the two specimens we have here. The true Fer de Lance, or Bothrops Lance-olatus, is highly venomous. The two that we have in the cage are the first that I have seen in 15 years. I cannot be sure that either one is a Fer de Lance until it is dead."

"Do professional snake charmers run a very great risk in handling serpents?" "Very little," was the answer, accom-panied by a laugh. "I will put our keeper in the reptile house, Mr. Thompson, against the best professional charmer in the coun-

tions in the elephant of the present, that a representative group of the great saurians of that distant period may still survive."

One of the rare creatures in the reptile

TOTAL ABSTINENCE NOTES.

THE Father Mathew association will have a social gathering Friday night, at the home of one of the lady members.

I talked with Bepresentative Tarsney, of Missouri, about his experiences. He said: "The rations we received were miserably small and of the poorest quality, and at